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68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 800

RETIREMENT FOR DISABILITY IN LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DECEMBER 10 (calendar day, DECEMBER 11), 1924.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JONES of Washington, from the Committee on Commerce,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3613]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3613) to provide for retirement for disability in the Lighthouse Service, having considered the same, report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass without amendment.

The bill has the approval of the Department of Commerce, as will appear by the annexed communication, which sets out fully and clearly the reasons for its passage.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington.

Hon. W. L. JONES,
Chairman Committee on Commerce,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: It is my earnest desire to bring to the attention of Congress a serious situation respecting disabilities incurred in the Lighthouse Service of this department.

The employees of the field service of the Lighthouse Service now may be retired for age under the lighthouse retirement act of June 20, 1918, but these provisions should be extended to cover cases of disability before the retirement age is reached. The general civil service retirement act of May 22, 1920, contains such a provision, as do the laws applying to the Coast Guard, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Army and Navy, and the result is that the field employees of the Lighthouse Service are now the only persons in the Government service who can not be retired for disability. Retirement for disability is of especial importance in the work of the Lighthouse Service, because it is essential that the personnel on lighthouse vessels and stations shall be physically competent; the work is hazardous, and the safety of lives and property is dependent on its faithful performance. This provision will increase the efficiency of the Lighthouse Service by tending to reduce accidents and to increase the reliability of aids to navigation.

References will be found in my annual reports for 1922, 1923, and 1924, recommending this legislation, the present need of which is urgent. Reports have been received by the department of a number of distressing cases, not due to misconduct, such as blindness, heart or other organic trouble, paralysis, and cancer.

I am inclosing a draft of legislation intended to accomplish this worthy purpose, and it is my earnest hope that Congress may see fit to enact it into law at an early date. I may add that this draft has previously been submitted to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, along with other items of legislation, and he has informed the department that it does not conflict with the financial program of the President.

Faithfully yours,

HERBERT HOOVER,
Secretary of Commerce.